

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
2 querying a file that defines a protocol for which protocol support is to be
3 added to a network traffic tool;
4 determining from the queried file how packets for the protocols are
5 constructed; and
6 building a protocol runtime specification based on how packets for the
7 protocol are constructed.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the file is written in an Extensible Markup
2 Language (XML).
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining from the file how to
2 display one or more user interface elements.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein determining from the queried file how packets
2 for the protocol are constructed comprises determining whether there are one or
3 more protocol encapsulations.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein determining from the queried file how packets
2 for the protocol are constructed comprises determining a field type of one or more
3 fields for the protocol.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein determining from the queried file how packets
2 for the protocol are constructed comprises determining a field size of one or more
3 fields for the protocol.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein determining from the queried file how packets
2 for the protocol are constructed comprises determining a default value of one or more
3 fields for the protocol.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein determining from the queried file how packets
2 for the protocol are constructed comprises determining whether there is a calculation
3 to be performed for one or more fields of the protocol.

1 9. An apparatus comprising:
2 a storage element to store a file that defines a protocol for which protocol
3 support is to be added to a network traffic tool; and
4 a translation unit coupled to the storage element to query the file to determine
5 how packets for the protocol are constructed and to build a protocol runtime
6 specification for the protocol.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a network interface coupled to the
2 translation unit.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the stored file is written in an Extensible
2 Markup Language (XML).

1 12. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the translation unit further determines from
2 the file how to display one or more user interface elements.

1 13. An article of manufacture comprising:
2 a machine accessible medium including content that when accessed by a
3 machine causes the machine to:
4 query a file that defines a protocol for which protocol support is to be added
5 to a network traffic tool;
6 determine from the queried file how packets for the protocol are constructed;
7 and
8 build a protocol runtime specification based on how packets for the protocol
9 are constructed.

1 14. The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the file is written in an
2 Extensible Markup Language (XML).

1 15. The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the machine-accessible
2 medium further includes content that causes the machine to determine from the file
3 how to display one or more user interface elements.

1 16. The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the machine accessible
2 medium including content that when accessed by the machine causes the machine to
3 determine from the queried file how packets for the protocol are constructed
4 comprises the machine accessible medium including content that when accessed by
5 the machine causes the machine to determine whether there are one or more
6 protocol encapsulations.

1 17. The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the machine accessible
2 medium including content that when accessed by the machine causes the machine to
3 determine from the queried file how packets for the protocol are constructed

4 comprises the machine accessible medium including content that when accessed by
5 the machine causes the machine to determine a field type of one or more fields for
6 the protocol.

1 18. The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the machine accessible
2 medium including content that when accessed by the machine causes the machine to
3 determine from the queried file how packets for the protocol are constructed
4 comprises the machine accessible medium including content that when accessed by
5 the machine causes the machine to determine a field size of one or more fields for
6 the protocol.

1 19. The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the machine accessible
2 medium including content that when accessed by the machine causes the machine to
3 determine from the queried file how packets for the protocol are constructed
4 comprises the machine accessible medium including content that when accessed by
5 the machine causes the machine to determine a default value of one or more fields
6 for the protocol.

1 20. The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the machine accessible
2 medium including content that when accessed by the machine causes the machine to
3 determine from the queried file how packets for the protocol are constructed
4 comprises the machine accessible medium including content that when accessed by
5 the machine causes the machine to determine whether there is a calculation to be
6 performed for one or more fields of the protocol.

1 21. A system comprising:

2 a storage element to store a file that defines protocol for which protocol
3 support is to be added to a network traffic tool;
4 a translation unit coupled to the storage element to query the file to determine
5 how packets for the protocol are constructed and to build a protocol runtime
6 specification for the protocol;
7 a network interface coupled to the translation unit; and
8 a network driver coupled to the network interface.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the stored file is written in an Extensible
2 Markup Language (XML).

1 23. The system of claim 21, wherein the translation unit further determines from
2 the file how to display one or more user interface elements.

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